

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00  
CIAE-00 CU-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 USIA-15  
DIWY-01 HEW-06 DHA-05 NSC-05 L-03 CEA-01 COME-00  
EB-08 FRB-01 OPIC-06 SP-02 TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01  
AGRE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 /165 W  
-----121211 290358Z /23

R 281437Z OCT 77

FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3850

INFO USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 9516

DEPT PASS ALL OECD POSTS

FROM KING (USDEL)

EO 11652: N/A

TAGSC SEPU, SENV, UNESCO, UNEP

SUBJ: WRAP-UP OF UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRON-  
MENTAL EDUCATION TBILISI, SOVIET UNION, OCTOBER 16-24 1977

1. SUMMARY. CONFERENCE ENDED ON HIGH NOTE TOTALLY WITHOUT  
INTRUSION OF ANY POLITICAL ISSUES. RECOMMENDATIONS, THOUGH  
BROAD IN SCOPE, ARE OF HIGH SUBSTANTIVE CHARACTER AND WILL  
BE USEFUL TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS AS WELL AS UNESCO, UNEP  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. USDEL PLEASED WITH  
OUTCOME. ARAB/ISRAELI, HELSINKI ACT, MASS MEDIA AND DIS-  
ARMAMENT ISSUES WERE DEFUSED BY ACTION OF WESTERN GROUP,  
WORKING IN HARMONY WITH SOVIET UNION, WHICH OBVIOUSLY WANTED  
CONFERENCE TO END SUCCESSFULLY. QTE TBILISI DECLARATION  
UNQUTE PASSED AT LAST MOMENT IN NOD TO GEORGIAN AND SOVIET  
HOSTS TRANSMITTED IN SEPTEL. ONLY DISCORDANT NOTE WAS OPEN  
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BREACH BETWEEN UNEP AND UNESCO, WITH DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF  
LATTER ORGANIZATION ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN EXCLUSIVE  
ROLE IN ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION. INTERNATIONAL NGO'S  
LARGELY DISREGARDED BY UNESCO WITH LITTLE OPPORTUNITY  
TO INFLUENCE CONFERENCE RESULTS. US MADE ONLY INTER-  
VENTION ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS WHICH WAS WELL RECEIVED.  
END SUMMARY.

2. SIXTY-NINE MEMBER STATES OF UNESCO WERE REPRESENTED AT THE CONFERENCE: 19 WESTERN EUROPEAN; 10 EASTERN EUROPEAN; 10 ARAB; 14 AFRICAN; 6 LATIN AMERICAN; AND 10 ASIAN. MOST DELEGATIONS WERE COMPOSED OF ENVIRONMENTALISTS AND EDUCATORS.

3. DURING COURSE OF PLENARY SPEECHES, A TOTAL OF 86 RECOMMENDATIONS TO NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS WERE SUBMITTED. USDEL PROPOSED FRAMEWORK FOR THESE RECOMMENDATIONS, IDENTIFYING GOALS OBJECTIVES AND CRITERIA FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS, WHICH WAS ULTIMATELY ADOPTED. WORKING GROUP, ESTABLISHED TO CONSOLIDATE NATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS, ULTIMATELY CAME UP WITH 15 WHICH WERE ADOPTED BY THE PLENARY. THEY PROPOSED ACTIONS IN SUCH AREAS AS TEACHER TRAINING, CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT, TEACHING MATERIALS, INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS, FORMAL AND NON-FORMAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND APPROACHES. FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF ABOVE, PLENARY STARTED DISCUSSION OF 46 INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS. WHEN IT APPEARED THAT SECRETARIAT DID NOT HAVE PLAN FOR CONSOLIDATION AND HARMONIZATION OF THESE SEPARATE SUBMISSIONS, US SUPPORTED BY SOVIET UNION, PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKING GROUP WHICH WAS ABLE TO COME UP WITH NEAR 20 (SOME LEFT IN SECRETARIAT'S HANDS FOR FINAL CONSOLIDATION) INTERNATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS. TOPICS UNCLASSIFIED

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RANGED FROM STRENGTHENING UNESCO REGIONAL OFFICES TO IMPROVE CAPABILITIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION; SUPPORT FOR UNEP'S PROGRAM ACTIVITY CENTERS IN MADRID AND AFRICA; AN INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR DISSEMINATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION INFORMATION; AND A GLOSSARY OF TERMS, TO A QTE TBILISI PRIZE UNQTE TO BE AWARDED FOR A BOOK WHICH WOULD BE JUDGED TO MAKE THE MOST SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION.

4. FOCUS ON SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS MADE IT POSSIBLE TO DEFUSE LIMITED NUMBER OF POLITICAL ISSUES RAISED (REPORTED IN SEPTTEL) LARGELY ON THE GROUNDS THAT THEY WERE EXTRANEIOUS TO THE MATTERS WITH WHICH THE CONFERENCE WAS DEALING.

5. GREAT INTEREST OF SOVIET GEORGIAN AND TBILISI AUTHORITIES IN CONFERENCE GAVE RISE TO A PROPOSAL THAT A QTE TBILISI DECLARATION UNQTE BE ADOPTED. SECRETARIAT STARTED EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF ADJECTIVE-LOADED DECLARATION WHICH WAS VETTED QUIETLY TO REGIONAL

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R 281437Z OCT 77  
FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3851  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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DEPT PASS ALL OECD POSTS

FROM KING (USDEL)

GROUPS. ULTIMATELY AN UNOFFICIAL WORKING GROUP MET,  
CHAired BY US, WHICH PRODUCED FINAL DRAFT. ON LAST  
DAY OF CONFERENCE, GEORGIAN CHAIRMAN INTRODUCED  
DECLARATION OFFICIALLY FOR FIRST TIME. AFTER A  
READING BY THE RAPPOREUR-GENERAL APPLAUSE WAS  
IMMEDIATELY INTERPRETED BY CHAIRMAN AS ADOPTION BY  
ACCLAMATION. TEXT OF DECLARATION TRANSMITTED IN SEPTTEL.

6. UNEP/UNESCO DIFFERENCES APPARENTLY EARLY, EXPRESSED  
BY UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL STATEMENT THAT THIS WAS  
UNESCO CONFERENCE AND BY ABSENCE OF ANY REFERENCE TO  
UNEP CONTRIBUTION IN DOCUMENTS, POSTERS, ETC. DURING  
COURSE OF PLENARY HE MENTIONED UNEP'S LACK OF CON-  
SULTATIONS ON MADRID CENTER; UNESCO'S CLEAR MANDATE  
TO CONDUCT EDUCATION PROGRAMS, AND UNEP'S FINANCIAL  
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SUPPORT ROLE. RECOMMENDATION, INITIALLY DEVELOPED BY

US, WORKED OUT BY WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHER GROUPS AND WHICH WAS DESIGNED TO HELP CLARIFY RESPECTIVE ROLES OF UNEP AND UNESCO BECAME CENTER OF DISCUSSION. MANY, BUT NOT ALL, OF INITIAL DIFFICULTIES WITH RECOMMENDATIONS WERE OCCASIONED BY HASTY TRANSLATION INTO FRENCH. RECOMMENDATION UNTILATELY PASSED, WITH UNESCO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SUBSEQUENTLY STATING THAT HE WOULD PRESENT IT TO HIS EXECUTIVE BOARD, BUT HAD SOME RESERVATIONS REGARDING IT. DETAILS OF PROCEDURE AND RECOMMENDATION TRANSMITTED IN SEPTEL.

7. IN GENERAL ALL, INCLUDING SOVIET HOSTS, WERE PLEASED WITH RESULTS OF CONFERENCE. CONFERENCE WAS COVERED HEAVILY BY LOCAL TELEVISION AND CITIZENS OF TBILISI AND GEORGIA WENT OUT OF THEIR WAY TO ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET. MANY WELL-ARRANGED TOURS, TICKETS TO SPECIAL EVENTS FOR DELEGATES TESTIFIED TO EXTREMELY CAREFUL PREPARATIONS. ULTIMATELY, OF COURSE, PROOF OF PUDDING WILL BE IN FUTURE FOLLOW-UP EFFORTS, PRINCIPALLY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, TO IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS.BORG

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** WRAP-UP OF UNESCO INTERGOVERNMENTAL CONFERENCE ON ENVIRON- MENTAL EDUCATION TBILISI, SOVIET UNION, OCTOBER 16-24 1977  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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